

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /175 W

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R 261315Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2230

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, MZ

SUBJECT: MILITARY HIGH COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 25/73 OF
NOVEMBER 24, 1973

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 722

1. LOCAL PAPERS CARRY PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES HIGH COMMAND
COMMUNIQUE NO. 25/73 OF NOVEMBER 24, PROVIDING REVIEW OF
MILITARY ACTIVITIES FROM JULY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30.

2. IN SUMMARY, COMMUNIQUE STATES FRELIMO CONCENTRATED ITS
EFFORTS AGAINST POPULATION IN ALDEAMENTOS WITH GOAL OF
OBLIGING PEOPLE TO ABANDON VILLAGES SO THEY CAN MORE EASILY
BE UTILIZED BY FRELIMO TO PRODUCE FOOD AND TRANSPORT WAR
MATERIALS. COMMUNIQUE SPECIFIES ATTACKS ON ALDEAMENTOS AT
SORONHATE, ZANGAIA, MUCHENA, CAUNDA, BINZE, M'FUTZO, FORTUNA
AND CHAGOE IN TETE DISTRICT; PUTO, MIEGANE, MEPANHA, COMANGANE
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AND QUITERAJO IN CABO DELGADO DISTRICT. THESE ACTIONS RESULTED

IN 121 PERSONS ILLED AND ABOUT 200 WOUNDED, MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

3. COMMUNIQUE ALSO REPORTS FRELIMO ATTACKS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AT CHAI, MOCIMBOA DA PRAIA AND PALMA IN WHICH ATTACKERS WERE PUT TO FLIGHT AFTER SUFFERING SEVERE LOSSES IN PERSTNNEL AND ARMAMENT. FRELIMO ATTEMPTS TO PREJUDICE NORMAL CONSTRUCTION AT CABORA BASSA DAM BY ATTEMPTING TO CUT ACCESS ROADS HAVE NOT DISRUPTED PROGRESS OF WORK. COMMUNIQUE MENTIONS FRELIMO EFFORTS IN THE PROPAGANDA FIELD.

4. COMMUNIQUE ENUMERATES RESULTS OF PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES ACTIONS AS FOLLOWS: FRELIMO CAMPS AND REFUGES DESTROYED - 521, GUERRILLAS CAPTURED - 63, POPULACE LIBERATED FROM FRELIMO - 5,596, WEAPONS CAPTURED - 369, AMUNITION AND DIVERSE EQUIPMENT CAPTURED - 503.

5. COMMUNIQUE MENTIONS ARMED FORCES CONTRIBUTION TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHOLERA IN WHICH MILITARY MEDICS VACCINATED THOUSANDS AND TREATED MANY OTHERS ALREADY STRICKEN WITH THE DISEASE.

6. DURING THREE MONTH PERIOD PORTUGUESE FORCES SUFFERED 79 DEATHS, OF WHICH 41 KILLED IN COMBAT AND THE REST IN TRAFFIC OR OTHER ACCIDENTS AND SICKNESS. COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDED BY REFERRING TO RECENT DEFECTIONS OF VARIOUS FRELIMO LEADERS.

7. COMMENT: ABOVE COMMUNIQUE WRAPS UP MILITARY ACTIVITIES DURING PERIOD HITHERTO LITTLE COVERED IN PRESS. LACK OF STATISTICS ON FRELIMO PERSONNEL DEATHS PROBABLY OVERSIGHT. VAN OSS

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